



606

# HF Happenings

South African Radio League \* Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga  
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925  
[www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) [www.iau.org](http://www.iau.org) [www.iau-r1.org](http://www.iau-r1.org)



May  
2014

## SARL Digital Contest

**T**he aim is to establish as many contacts as possible between radio amateurs in Southern Africa using the PSK31 / RTTY mode. The contest is open to all radio amateurs in Southern Africa (refer General Rules 1.b). The contest runs from 13:00 UTC to 16:00 UTC on Sunday 25 May with PSK31 and RTTY activity on 80 metres (3 580 to 3 600 kHz), 40 metres (7 040 to 7 060 kHz) and 20 metres (14 070 to 14 099 kHz). PSK31 is preferred at the lower end of the specified frequencies. RTTY is preferred at the upper end of the specified frequencies. Please note that USB must be used at all times. Refer to (refer General Rule 16)

A station may be contacted twice on each band once on RTTY, once on PSK31. The exchange is a RST report plus a sequential serial number starting at 001.

Contacts with stations listed in General Rule 1.b are worth 3 points and contacts with stations NOT listed in General Rule 1.b are worth 1 point. The first contact with each area listed below will be used as a band multiplier.

Area 1: ZS1; Area 2: ZS2; Area 3: ZS3; Area 4: ZS4; Area 5: ZS5; Area 6: ZS6; Area 7: 3DA, 7P, 7Q, 9J, C9, A2, D2, V5, Z2, ZD7, ZD9, ZS7, ZS8, FR, 3B8, 5R, FH and D6 and Area 8: Stations in the rest of the world.

The scoring is Band total = QSO points X number of call areas worked per band. The final score = sum of the band totals.

Logs shall be submitted by 1 June 2014 to [contest@sarl.org.za](mailto:contest@sarl.org.za)

*Have **YOU** done anything today to Promote Amateur Radio?*

### May

1 - Worker's Day  
2 - School holiday  
4 - ZS3 Sprint  
10 and 11 - AWA AM and SSB Contest  
11 - Mother's Day  
15 - May Radio Amateur Examination  
16 to 18 - Dayton Hamvention  
24 - SA AMSAT Symposium  
24 and 25 - CQ WPX CW Contest; Day of the YLs  
25 - SARL Digital Contest  
29 - Ascension Day

### June

1 - Comrades Marathon  
5 - 80th birthday of my Mother-in-law; World Environmental Day  
8 - ZS4 Sprint; World Oceans Day; Pentecost  
15 - Father's Day  
16 - Youth Day  
17 - World QRP Day  
19 to 22 - SARL Top Band QSO Party  
21 - Radio Technology in Action in Durban  
27 - Schools close  
27 to 29 - Ham Radio 2014 in Friedrichshafen, Germany  
28 - Start of Ramadan

## The Day of YLs 2014

*in loving memory of our dear friend*

**Gabri 1K3CXC R.I.P.**



**HF/VHF CONTEST**  
**24 & 25 May 2014**

Infos : <http://www.qrz.com/db/F5ISY>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/115349598506734/>

## CQ Announces 2014 Hall Of Fame Inductees

CQ magazine today announced its 2014 Hall of Fame inductees, adding two members each to the CQ DX and Contest Halls of Fame, as well as eight new members of the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame.

### CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame

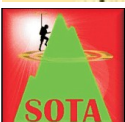
The CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame honours those individuals, whether licensed amateurs or not, who have made significant contributions to amateur radio; and those amateurs who have made significant contributions either to amateur radio, to their professional careers or to some other aspect of life on our planet. The 2014 inductees (listed alphabetically) are:

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Current Summits-on-the-Air

(SOTA) activities are announced at [www.sotawatch.org](http://www.sotawatch.org)

And more SOTA information can be found at [www.sota.org.uk](http://www.sota.org.uk) and [www.zs4bfn.co.za/sota.asp](http://www.zs4bfn.co.za/sota.asp)





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(Continued from page 1)

- \* Clifford Berry, W9TIJ, who helped usher in the computer age as co-inventor of the Atanasoff-Berry computer (or ABC), the precursor of virtually all electronic computers.
- \* Warren Bruene, W5OLY, prolific radio designer and innovator who designed many Collins radios and helped the company introduce single-sideband voice communications.
- \* John Huntoon, W1RW, (SK) former ARRL General Manager, QST Editor, helped bring about international allocation of the 30, 17 and 12 metre bands.
- \* Mike Koss, W9SU, DXer and DXpeditioner; founder and owner of filter manufacturer ICE (Industrial Communications Engineers); key player in establishment of Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club, W9IMS; organizer of special event station W87PAX at 1987 Pan American Games in Indianapolis.
- \* Nancy Kott, WZ8C, former Editor of WorldRadio and WorldRadio Online and tireless promoter of Morse Code as US coordinator of the FISTS CW Club.
- \* Paul Laughton, N6BVH, software designer whose accomplishments include developing Apple's disk operating system and Atari's operating system.
- \* Ralph Showers, ex-W3GEU, expert on electronic interference and leader of efforts to set national and international standards for electro-magnetic compatibility (EMC). He holds several awards from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).
- \* Steve Wozniak, ex-WV6VLY and ex-WA6BND, co-founder of Apple Computers.

### CQ DX and Contest Halls of Fame

The CQ DX and Contest Halls of Fame honour those amateurs who not only excel in personal performance in these major areas of amateur radio but who also 'give back' to the hobby in outstanding ways.

The 2014 inductees to the CQ DX Hall of Fame are:

- \* Joe Reisert, W1JR, a DXer and DXpeditioner since the 1950s, Joe has DXCC Mixed, Phone, CW, Digital and QRP with over 300 entities confirmed for each, along with 13-band Worked All States, 13-band Worked All Continents and CQ's USA-CA All Counties award. Joe is also a pioneer in 432-MHz EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) communications, ran his own antenna manufacturing company (Antennaco) and is a prolific writer and public speaker.
- \* David Collingham, K3LP, a leading DXer and DXpeditioner who is also focused on using amateur radio as an educational tool, at home and around the world. He has equipped a complete station at his hometown elementary school and has taught amateur radio to young people in Iraq, Ethiopia and Rotuma.

The 2014 inductees to the CQ Contest Hall of Fame are:

- \* J. Scott Redd, KODQ, is already a member of the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame for his service to our nation as an Admiral, Deputy Administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq and the first Director of the National Counterterrorism Centre. Scott has always found time within his professional duties for amateur radio and his first love, contesting. He is one of only two people to have won the single-operator category of all of the world's major contests.
- \* Ed Muns, WOYK, is a noted RTTY contester with 9 single-op all-band and one multi-two championships and six world records. Ed is also Director of the CQ World Wide RTTY DX and RTTY WPX Contests, and manager of the North American Sprint RTTY Contest. He is also very active in the Northern California Contest Club and is a past club officer and director.



Formal inductions to the CQ Contest and DX Halls of Fame were scheduled for the Dayton Hamvention.® More detailed descriptions of inductees will appear in the official announcement in the July 2014 issue of CQ magazine.



## YOFF Green Party 2014

The YOFF team of the SRR (Romanian Society of Radio Amateurs) and the ARER (Romanian Association of Environmentalists Radio Amateurs) invite all the radio amateurs to join them in the YOFF Green Party 2014.

Purpose: To stimulate the ham operators to leave their house and be involved in portable/outdoor operations related to the nature and ecology and to familiarize the world-wide radio amateurs with protected natural areas. Dates: 06:00 - 17:59 UTC 7 June 2014. For complete details, visit [http://wff-yo.blogspot.ro/p/blog-page\\_3.html](http://wff-yo.blogspot.ro/p/blog-page_3.html)

## Results of the ZS3 Sprint

The ZS3 Sprint was well supported on 4 May 2014. We received 18 logs from which four of them were used as controlled logs.

The results are as follows for the hour on the air:

1st: ZS3SVD, Sian van Deventer, 119 points.

2nd: ZS3JAN, Jan Jordaan, 90 points.

3rd: ZS4W, Warren Reilly, 78 points.

4th: ZS3Y, Volker Otto, 72 points.

The Northern Cape Amateur Radio Club thanks everybody that took part and send in their logs.

## 2013 ARRL 10 Metre Contest

**I**n the preliminary results of the 2013 ARRL 10 Metre Contest, the call sign of ZR9C is noted as winner of the multi-operator low power category for Africa, the station is in 7<sup>th</sup> place in the Top Ten multi-operator low power DX station category and they are 12<sup>th</sup> in the multi-operator low power category world wide. Well done to Karel, ZS6WN, and his team. <http://arrl.org/contest-results-articles>

## Football World Championship

**B**razil's national amateur radio society, LABRE, has negotiated an agreement with their national authority ANATEL to permit radio amateurs visiting the country for the Football World Championship in June and July to operate. Visitors may get on the air without CEPT or IARP licenses and regardless of the existence of reciprocal agreements. The only requirement is to send the following items to LABRE by e-mail - copy of the passport (page with your mug shot), copy of your licence, planned location or locations and time period in Brazil. LABRE also issues the award 'Diploma Brasil Terra do Futebol' which is based on contacts with Brazilian special event stations between 1 June and 31 July. [http://www.labre.org.br/fusionnews/fullnews.php?fn\\_id=65](http://www.labre.org.br/fusionnews/fullnews.php?fn_id=65)



## ADIF County Conversion tool

**J**im, AD1C, reports, "Version 5.2 of my ADIF County Conversion tool is now available at [http://software.ad1c.us/ADIF\\_County/](http://software.ad1c.us/ADIF_County/). This program takes an ADIF file from a contest logger like *WriteLog* or *N1MM Logger*, and converts the contest-specific county abbreviations into real ADIF field values which can be imported into a general-purpose logging program."

## What's the difference?

**E**lectronic Design magazine has posted a couple of resources explaining the difference between bit rate and baud, which is a good thing to know these days. <http://electronicdesign.com/communications/what-s-difference-between-bit-rate-and-baud-rate>. And how about watts versus volt-amperes? That's online, too! <http://electronicdesign.com/energy/what-s-difference-between-watts-and-volt-amperes>

Crimea. The Ukrainian national amateur radio society, UARL, has commented upon ARRL's decision regarding the DXCC status of the peninsula - [http://uarl.org.ua/news/zvernennja\\_lru\\_v\\_arrrl/2014-05-05-215](http://uarl.org.ua/news/zvernennja_lru_v_arrrl/2014-05-05-215)

Platberg Harrismith Backpackers

<https://www.facebook.com/platbergbackpackers?fref=ts> and [www.platbergbackpackers.co.za](http://www.platbergbackpackers.co.za)



## HF Happenings

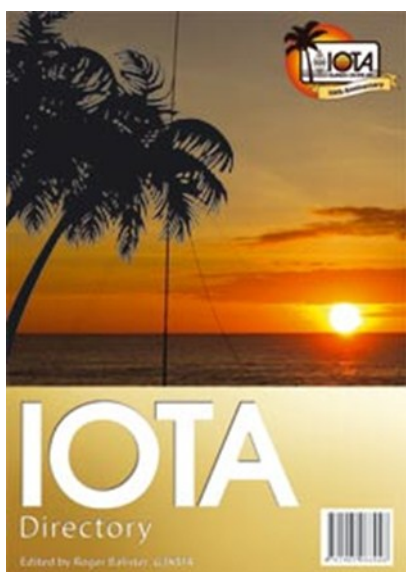
### Word to the Wise

**N**ap - don't be afraid to take one during a contest if you find yourself unable to focus on making and logging QSOs. You're doing your score no favours and may be incurring additional penalties for busting calls. Better to close your eyes for 10 minutes or so than to make a lot of errors! If you decide to take a longer nap, stay with an approximately 90-minute cycle to avoid waking up in the middle of deep sleep, which leaves you disoriented and groggy.



### Operating Tip

**A**lfredo, WP3C, asked the cq-contest e-mail reflector about drinks and staying awake during the contest. This set off quite a discussion that has good information for radio amateur's performing extended operations in public service and disaster relief. Visit <http://lists.contesting.com/archives/html/CQ-Contest/2014-05/msg00104.html>



### IOTA Directory - 50th Anniversary Edition

**N**ow celebrating 50 years, the Island on the Air (IOTA) programme is one of the most popular DX programmes in the world. To mark this golden anniversary the fully updated IOTA Directory provides the essential guide to participating in the IOTA award programme and much more.

Edited and introduced by IOTA manager Roger Balister, G3KMA, the IOTA Directory - 50th Anniversary Edition contains a review of the first 50 years of the programme from the founder of the programme Geoff Watts, through to the present. The extensive colour section of the book also contains fascinating articles covering the IOTA operation on "Timoteo Dominguez", the upsurge of Island Activity in Indonesia and even Antennas for IOTA DXpeditions.

There is much more besides with details of the latest IOTA Honour roll, Golden List, etc. The IOTA Directory - 50th Anniversary Edition is the only complete, official listing of IOTA islands but is much more than just a simple list. This edition contains all the rule changes and island updates of this dynamic and exciting programme. There is everything you need to participate in IOTA, from an explanation of the programme, the rules, lists of islands, grouped by continent, and indexed by prefix through to application forms and masses of information and advice for island hunters, award applicants and DXpeditioners alike.

If the simple act of collecting QSL cards from around the world hasn't appealed before. The multitude of islands and the fascinating IOTA programme laid out in this book will change your mind. The IOTA Directory - 50th Anniversary Edition is a must have if you are already involved or simply just interested.

Size 210 x 297 mm, 128 pages ISBN 9781-9050-8694-8. Non Member's Price £11.99, RSGB Member's Price £10.19. web site: [http://www.rsgbshop.org/acatalog/Online\\_Catalogue\\_IOTA\\_42.html](http://www.rsgbshop.org/acatalog/Online_Catalogue_IOTA_42.html)

### African Islands

ZD8, Ascension Island. Jim, N6TJ, will once again be active as ZD8Z from Ascension Island (AF-003) between 26 May and 3 June. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL via AI4U, direct or by the Bureau.



### African Mainland

S0, Western Sahara. Man, S01WS, has recently appeared on 10 m between 04:30 and 05:30 UTC. QSL direct via EA2JG, LoTW and eQSL.





## Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM.  
The period covered is 19 to 26 May 2014

### CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 21 May and  
03:00 - 04:00 UTC 22 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 24 May 2014

Post log summary at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/onair.html>

### NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint

00:30 - 02:30 UTC 22 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and NAQCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member

Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once

Key Type Mult: 2 x if straight key, 1.5 x if bug, 1 x if other

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 25 May 2014

Upload log at: <http://naqcc.info/sprintlog.html>

Mail logs to: John Shannon, K3WWP, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201, USA

Find rules at: <http://naqcc.info/sprint201405.html>

### RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW

19:00 - 20:30 UTC 22 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 29 May 2014

Upload log at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2014/r80mcc.shtml>

### NCCC RTTY Sprint

02:00 - 02:30 UTC 23 May

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 25 May 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyins.html>

### NCCC Sprint Ladder

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 23 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 25 May 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

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Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

## CQ WW WPX CW Contest

00:00 UTC 24 May to 23:59 UTC 25 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high - tribander or rookie; Single Op Single Band - QRP, low or high - tribander or rookie; Single Op Assisted All Band - QRP, low or high - tribander or rookie; Single Op Assisted Single Band - QRP, low or high - tribander or rookie; Multi-Single; Multi-Two; Multi-Multi  
Max operating hours: Single Op: 36 hours with off times of at least 60 minutes; Multi-Op: 48 hours  
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 6 points per 160, 80, 40 m QSO with different continent; 3 points per 20, 15, 10 m QSO with different continent; 2 points per 160, 80, 40 m QSO with same continent different country; 1 point per 20, 15, 10 m QSO with same continent different country; 4 points per 160, 80, 40 m QSO between stations in NA; 2 points per 20, 15, 10 m QSO between stations in NA; 1 point per QSO with same country

Multipliers: Prefixes once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 30 May 2014

E-mail logs to: [cw@cqwpx.com](mailto:cw@cqwpx.com)

Upload log at: <http://www.cqwpx.com/logcheck/>

Mail logs to: CW WPX Contest, PO Box 481, New Carlisle, OH 45344, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.cqwpx.com/rules.htm>

## The Day of YLs

06:00 UTC 24 May - 18:00 UTC 25 May

Mode: CW, SSB, RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, VHF

Classes: YL; OM

Exchange: RS(T) and YL/OM

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 26 June 2014

E-mail logs to: [f5isy@orange.fr](mailto:f5isy@orange.fr)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.qrz.com/db/F5ISY>

## SARL Digital Contest

13:00 - 16:00 UTC 25 May

Mode: PSK, RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST and QSO no

Work stations: Once per mode per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 1 June 2014

E-mail logs to: [contest@sarl.org.za](mailto:contest@sarl.org.za)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

[http://www.sarl.org.za/Document\\_Store/CONT\\_20140101\\_SARL\\_Contest\\_Manual\\_2014.pdf](http://www.sarl.org.za/Document_Store/CONT_20140101_SARL_Contest_Manual_2014.pdf)

## QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint

20:00 local - 24:00 local 25 May

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: All Band; Single Band; High Bands; Low Bands

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and ARCI no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with ARCI member; 4 points per non-member QSO with different continent; 2 points per non-member QSO with same continent; Bonus: 5 000 points if you operate portable using battery power and a temporary antenna

Multipliers: States, once per band; VE Provinces, once per band; Countries, once per band

Power Mult:  $>5\text{ W} = \times 1$ ,  $1 - 5\text{ W} = \times 7$ ,  $250\text{ mW} - 1\text{ W} = \times 10$ ,  $55 - 250\text{ mW} = \times 15$ ,  $<55\text{ mW} = \times 20$

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (state mults and province mults and country mults) x power mult) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 8 June 2014

E-mail logs to: [contest@qrparci.org](mailto:contest@qrparci.org)

Mail logs to: ARCI Hoot Owl Sprint, c/o Jeff Hetherington, 139 Elizabeth St. W., Welland, Ontario L3C 4M3, Canada

Find rules at: <http://www.qrparci.org/contests/hootowl-sprint-2014>





## What does CW really mean?

**F**rom Jim Wades, WB8SIW, come the following information regarding the origins of the term "continuous wave." Here is his abridged version.

The first radio transmitters generated RF by discharging a high voltage spark across an L-C resonant circuit, which was coupled to the antenna.

Each spark discharge across the gap would "ring" the L-C tuned circuit, which would then oscillate at its resonant frequency with decreasing amplitude until the decay was such that oscillation ceased. This created a "damped" oscillation analogous to ringing a bell or plucking a guitar string.

The biggest problems with spark transmitters were occupied bandwidth, resulting in relatively poor efficiency, and the fact that they could not be modulated. This problem was solved through a number of approaches, which produced "undamped oscillations," also called "continuous waves." The earliest methods of producing an undamped oscillation were the arc transmitter and the radio frequency alternator. Both were useable only at very low frequencies, and both produced RF directly at high power levels, which were difficult to modulate. However, such systems remained in service well into the mid 1940s, and one Alexanderson long-wave alternator remains intact and operational in Sweden as a museum piece.

With the development of stable, good quality vacuum tubes in the 'teens, it became possible to develop a "modern" RF oscillator. Better yet, a RF oscillator could operate at low levels and be buffered and amplified in stages to produce reasonably high power levels. Furthermore, such vacuum tube oscillators could be conveniently modulated. Therefore, immediately after World War One and through the 1920s, we begin to see a variety of applications arise centred around voice communications including radio broadcasting, police radio, and point-to-point SSB circuits for international telephone service.

The term "continuous wave" during this early period emerged as a tool to differentiate a modern radiotelegraph transmitter generating undamped oscillations from its antecedent, the older spark transmitter producing damped oscillations. Over time, as the spark technology receded into the past, the term "CW" became somewhat idiomatic; a term used by radio operators and engineers in reference to all radiotelegraph communications.

In reality, all modern communications systems use "CW," from your ham radio CW equipment to the latest cellular telephone or wireless router! I hope that explains things! - 73, WB8SIW



## Rubik's Cube

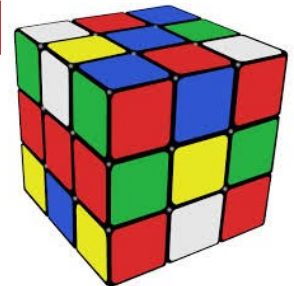
**T**his week saw the 40th Anniversary of the Rubik Cube.

The original (3 × 3 × 3) Rubik's Cube has eight corners and twelve edges. There are 40 320 ways to arrange the corner cubes. Seven can be oriented independently, and the orientation of the eighth depends on the preceding seven, giving 2 187 possibilities.

There are 239 500 800 ways to arrange the edges, since an even permutation of the corners implies an even permutation of the edges as well. (When arrangements of centres are also permitted, the rule is that the combined arrangement of corners, edges, and centres must be an even permutation.)

Eleven edges can be flipped independently, with the flip of the twelfth depending on the preceding ones, giving 2 048 possibilities. A total of approximately 43 quintillion.

The puzzle is often advertised as having "billions" of positions, as the larger numbers are unfamiliar to many. To put this into perspective, if one had as many standard sized Rubik's Cubes as there are permutations, one could cover the Earth's surface 275 times. (Wikipedia)



## Inside Room 40 - The Code breakers of World War I - a book by Paul Gannon

**M**any radio amateurs are familiar with the code breaking efforts of Bletchley Park during World War II however few are aware of the British code breaking efforts during World War I.

Inside Room 40 sets out to explain the activities of the British code breakers and their successes during the 1914 - 18 World War.

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Inside Room 40 is based on previously secret files which bring to life the hidden history of the British code breakers. From the very earliest luck of capturing a German Naval code book from a hapless German cruiser which ran aground in August 1914, through to the deciphering of the famous "Zimmermann" telegram that brought the United States into the 1st World War, it is all chronicled here.

There are even details of the efforts of a few British radio amateurs who established a receiving system so sensitive that it picked up messages the Germans believed couldn't be overheard, so didn't even encode them.

As coding technology developed so did Room 40, such that by wars end they were reading the messages used by German warships, U-boats and naval zeppelins, and breaking the ciphers used by the Germans to communicate with their naval attaches and embassies around the world.

Inside Room 40 also details the methods used in code breaking, along with the early tabulating machines that were the forerunners of the "Colossus" computer famously used at Bletchley to break German codes in WWII.

For those who are unaware of the huge contribution made to the war effort by the code breakers of Room 40 this hardback book is a revelation.

Inside Room 40 authored by Paul Gannon provides a detailed and comprehensive view of this little known area of WWI history. (RSGB Shop).

## Next Weeks Contests

SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 28 May

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 28 May and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 29 May

QRP Minimal Art Session, 16:00 - 22:00 UTC 29 May

NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 30 May

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 3 June

## History this Week, week starting 19 May 14

1825 - The electromagnet in a practical form was first exhibited by its inventor, William Sturgeon

1844 - Samuel F.B. Morse completes first telegraph line

1844 - Samuel F.B. Morse taps out "What hath God wrought" (1st telegraph message)

1844 - First telegraphed news dispatch is published in Baltimore Patriot

1857 - The first U.S. patent for an "electromagnetic fire alarm telegraph for cities" was issued to W F Channing of Boston, Mass

1862 - A field telegraph was used for the first time in US warfare

1874 - T. A. Edison was issued a patent for a device concerning "Automatic Telegraphy and in Perforators Therefor"

1906 - LH Perlman of New York City applied for a patent for his invention of the demountable tyre-carrying rim.

1906 - The brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright received a patent for "new and useful improvements in Flying Machines"

1908 - First passenger flight in an airplane

1916 - Einstein's Theory of General Relativity presented

1946 - Patent filed in US for H-Bomb



Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC News